Strike by ground staff of 'Indian'

†*51. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days for which the employees of 'Indian' were on strike in June,2007 and the reasons therefor;

(b) the total financial loss incurred to the 'Indian' due to strike; and

(c) the agreement reached between 'Indian' and employees and by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Employees of Indian Airlines covered by Air Corporation Employees Union (ACEU) had gone on flash strike *w.e.f.* night shift of 12th June, 2007 all over India. The strike was called off on the afternoon of 14th June, 2007. ACEU had been demanding revision of wages and allowances *w.e.f.* 1.1.1997 and better career progression. The negotiations in this regard were initiated in February, 2007 but, when no satisfactory agreement was reached and the ACEU adopted an agitational approach, the matter was seized with Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). Even as the conciliation proceedings were underway with the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), the ACEU suddenly called for a flash strike.

(b) The estimated loss incurred by Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air) due to strike is Rs.3.5 Crores by way of loss of contribution, additional expenditure on hotel, food and conveyance charges for disrupted flights etc.

(c) Memorandum of Settlement covering revision of pay scales and allowances, payment of arrears, career progression of specified category of workmen etc. has been signed in conciliation with the representatives of ACEU on 15th, June 2007. The revision of pay scales will be effected in the salary of August 2007. However, the first installment of arrears has already been paid in July 2007.

Purchase of Serbian Airlines by Air India

*52. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees with the reports regarding proposed purchase of the Serbian Airlines by the Air India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Airlines have incurred losses over past several years; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the fleet of the said airlines is old and requires costly maintenance;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the rationale of such proposal; and

(e) whether the cost of acquisition will be shared by Government and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Air India have informed that, there is no proposal for purchase of Serbian Airlines by them. However, they had received a suggestion from JAT airways of Serbia for a strategic relationship with Air India. No decision has been taken.

Restoration of old havelis in Chandni Chowk, Delhi

*53. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restore the old havelis in Chandni Chowk and nearby areas of old Delhi, some of which are also historically important and can become major tourist attraction; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to restore the charm and grandeur of Old Delhi which existed during the past?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects. However, no such project proposal for restoration of old havelis in Chandni Chowk has been submitted by the Department of Tourism, Government of NCT of Delhi.

New pension fund bill for private sector

*54. SHRI P R RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a New Pension Fund Bill for private sector; and

(b) if so, the nature and details of the legislation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 2005 was introduced in the Parliament in March, 2005 to, *inter-alia*, regulate the New Pension System and to establish a Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to promote old age income security by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds and to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, which examined it and recommended the same for enactment subject to some modifications/amendment. The Bill is pending before the Parliament.